

REMARKS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 6 through 8.

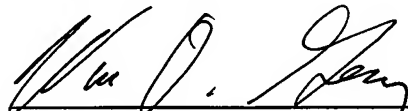
Claim 9 has been rewritten to overcome the rejection based upon Horning. Claim 9 provides that the first and second obtusely inclined surfaces are forced toward each other when the crunch exercise is being performed.

Referring to Horning, a body support is shown which is intended to be gripped by a user by squeezing the lower portion of the device between the thighs and by wrapping the insides of the arms around the device. The Horning device has a first surface that contacts the abdomen of the user, but there are no surfaces that extend at obtuse angles relative to the bottom first surface. The portions of the device that are gripped by the user in Horning extend at an angle of ninety degrees to the first (bottom) flat surface. This is shown best in FIG. 2, which shows no relief lines or shading that might otherwise indicate that the sides 25 and 30 extend at anything other than a ninety-degree angle to the bottom of the pad. They are, in effect, perpendicular side walls

Even if one interprets the embodiment of FIG. 4 as containing an obtusely angled surface, there is only one such surface. The other surface that is engageable by the arms remains at a ninety-degree angle to the bottom flat surface of the body support. Further, claim 9 now requires that at least portions of the second and third surfaces are forced toward each other when the user is performing the exercise. It should be noted that no exercise is being performed in Horning, and even if it were, the second and third surfaces (for engagement by the arms and legs respectively) would not be forced toward each other under any type of compression that could be imagined given the shape of Horning's device.

For the reasons discussed above, applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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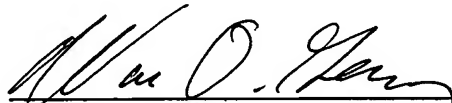
Application No. 10/625,019
Amendment dated August 8, 2006
Reply to Office action of May 24, 2006



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: August 8, 2006



William O. Geny